

Family Name History



Reif

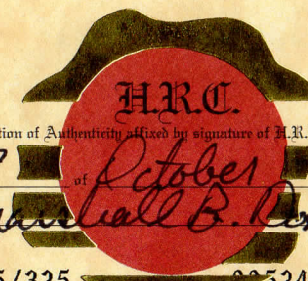
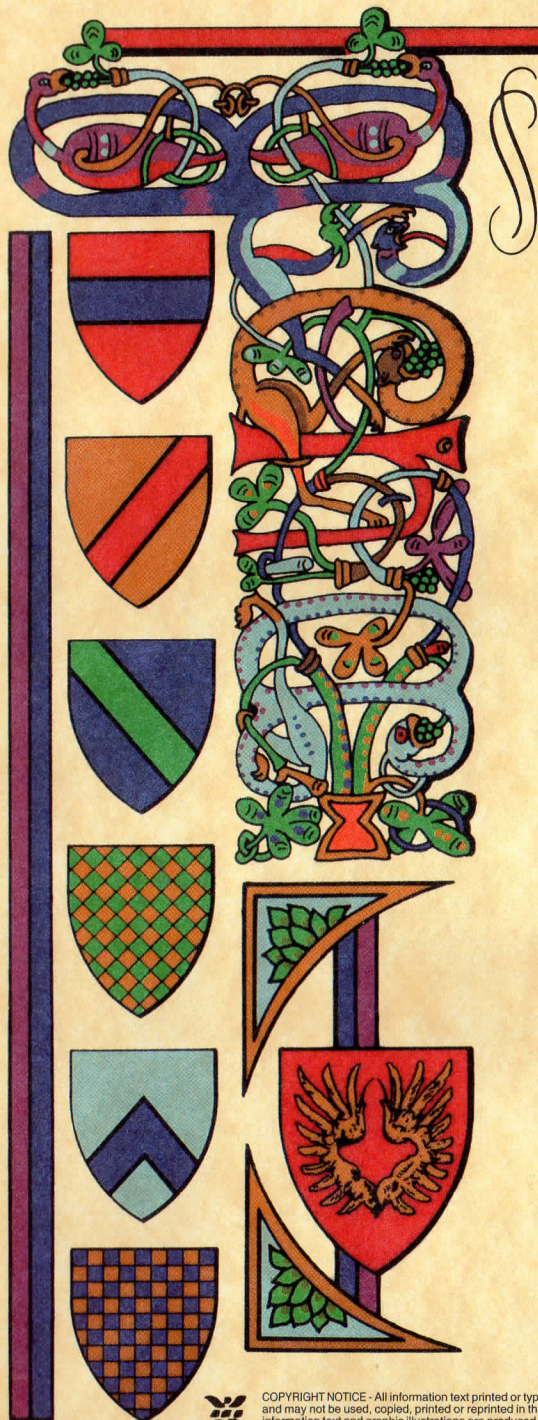
The German family name Reif is classified as being of personal name origin. According to scholars the "oldest and most pervasive type of surname is that derived from a given name". Such family names may be derived from a parental first name or from the font name of the grandfather or indeed a more remote ancestor of the original bearer of the surname. With regard to the family name Reif, it indicates "son of Reif", a pet form of the Old High German first name "Rīchfrīk", which is composed of "rihhi", meaning "power, rule" and "frīdus", meaning "peace". It is, however, also possible that this name is of nickname origin, derived from the Middle High German "rīf", denoting "one who was extremely sensitive to the cold and thus considered to be a delicate and weak individual". Variants of the surname Reif include Reiff and Riff.

One of the earliest references to this name or to a variant is a record of one Jodocus gen. Riffko, who appears in documents from Jegenstorf in 1375. Michael Reif and Sara Renklin were married in Schopfheim, Loerrach, Baden, on July 19, 1757 and the baptism of Christian Friderich Reif, son of Johann Conrad Reif and Maria Schollenberger, is recorded in Ensingen, Württemberg, in 1825. Notable bearers of the surname Reif include Johann Ehrenfrid Reif (1687-1740), the theologian and educator. According to scholars Hanks and Hodges it was not until the sixteenth century that hereditary surnames were universally in use in Germany although the process first began in the middle of the twelfth century. This name was introduced to America as early as 1729 in which year we find a record of the emigration of Jacob Reif, who sailed to Pennsylvania. The name could of course have been first introduced to that country at an earlier date.

BLAZON OF ARMS: Azure, a mill-stone charged with a mill-rind all proper.

CREST: A tower embattled with a pointed roof proper.

ORIGIN: GERMANY



Verification of Authenticity affixed by signature of H.R.C. Consultant

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By *Michael B. Denis*

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